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MINUTES

OF

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

GENERAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

OF CALIFORNIA,

HELD WITH

FIFTH BAPTIST CHURCH,

AT

San Francisco, May 10th, 11th and 12th, 1882.

SAN FRANCISCO:
GEO. SPAULDING & CO., STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, 414 CLAY ST.
1882.

OFFICERS OF THE CONVENTION.

President—Rev. H. I. Parker. D. D.

Vice-President—Rev. J. B. Saxton, D. D., B. C. Wright.

Secretary—E. R. Pope.

Assistant Secretary—W. B. Thompson.

Statistical Secretary—Rev. J. Q. A. Henry.

Treasurer—E. R. Stockwell.

Auditor—P. D. Code.

Directors, 1885—Rev. A. J. Frost, D. D., Rev. J. B. Saxton, D. D., Rev. J. S. Jesse, Rev. S. S. Fisk, Rev. D. T. Van Doren, T. K. Hook, J. L. Merguire, G. A. Hull, J. P. Cogswell.

Directors, 1884—Rev. G. S. Abbott, D. D., Rev. W. M. Kincaid, Rev. S. B. Morse, Rev. E. H. Gray, D. D., Rev. H. I. Parker, D. D., P. D. Code, W. R. Strong, J. R. Mason.

Directors, 1883—Rev. A. L. Cole, D. D., Rev. J. Q. A. Henry, Rev. G. R. Read, Rev. J. B. Hartwell, D. D., Rev. M. D. Gage, Rev. W. T. Fleenor, J. C. Voorhees, J. L. Lyon, D. K. Woodbridge.

OFFICERS PASTORS' AND DEACONS' CONFERENCE.

President, Rev. W. M. Kincaid; Secretary, Rev. J. S. Jesse; Executive Committee, Rev. E. H. Gray, D. D., Rev. G. S. Abbott, D. D., Rev. W. M. Kincaid, Rev. D. T. Van Doren, Rev. W. T. Fleenor, Deacons J. R. Mason and P. U. Blunt.

WOMAN'S BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSIONARY SCCIETY OF THE PACIFIC COAST.

President, Mrs. J. P. Cogswell; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. G. S. Abbott; Recording Secretary, Miss Clara Hull; Treasurer, Mrs. Benj. C. Wright.

WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA.

President, Mrs. E. H. Gray; Vice-President, Mrs. S. B. Morse; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Ella Bradway; Recording Secretary, Miss Ella Dearborn; Treasurer, Mrs. O. K. Wright.

CHINESE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

President, Rev. S. B. Morse; Vice-President, J. F. Pope; Secretary, Rev. J. B. Hartwell; Treasurer, H. Garthwaite.

RULES RESPECTING APPROPRIATIONS.

RULE 1. Each Church receiving aid from the Convention must have a pastor, or the regular service of some minister, whose salary or compensation it holds itself responsible for, and promptly pays, according to the terms of agreement.

RULE II. Each Church seeking aid must make a written request to the Executive Committee of the Board, containing definite information on the following points: The amount of aid desired; the number in the Church, male and female; number of congregation; the amount of property in the Church and in the Congregation; the name of the pastor or minister, and amount of his salary or compensation, with the conditions and manner of its being raised and paid; and other things essential to a full and fair view of the condition and prospects of the Church.

RULE III. Essential to a continuance of aid is a quarterly report to the Executive Committee of the Board, touching the following points: The general state of religious interest; the character of attendance on public worship and on the prayer meetings; the number of additions to the Church; the changes in the congregation; the amount of benevolent contributions; what missionary work has been done outside of the regular Sabbath congregations; and other things essential to a fair and full view of the condition of the Church.

RULE IV. No appropriation will be made to a Church for the payment of arrearages of pastor's salary, or any other debts contracted previous to the application of said Church for aid from the Convention.

RULE V. Every Church receiving aid must show, as a condition of the same being continued, that it contributes, as it is able, to the treasury of the Convention.

RULE VI. Churches receiving aid are requested to adopt the envelope system of weekly collections for raising money to meet the expenses of worship.

All applications for assistance, and letters of inquiry, also reports from Churches and missionaries, should be addressed to the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Convention.

Remittances of money, and whatever relates to the finances of the Board, must be made to Mr. E. R. Stockwell, Treasurer, Stockton, Cal.

Communications relating to Convention matters should be addressed to Mr. W. B. Thompson, Assistant Secretary, 119½ Thirteenth street, San Francisco.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. Delegates annually chosen by regular Baptist Churches, Associations, and Auxiliary Societies, in the State of California, shall constitute this organization, to be known as the *General Baptist Convention of California.*

ART. II. The object of this Convention shall be, first, to promote the preaching of the Gospel, and the establishment of Baptist Churches in California; second, to develop and foster Sunday School work; third, to enlist Baptist Churches and Sunday Schools alike in Home Mission, Foreign Mission, and Publication Society work; fourth, to encourage the common educational interests of the Baptist denomination in the State; fifth, to promote denominational acquaintance, fellowship, and growth.

ART. III. This Convention shall meet annually, on Wednesday evening after the first Sunday in May, or at such other time as it may direct. Its President, however, shall have power, upon the written request of not less than ten members of the Board, to alter the time or place of the annual meeting.

ART. IV. Any contributing Baptist Church to the treasury of this Convention may send three delegates; having one hundred members or over, four delegates; having two hundred members or over, five delegates. These numbers, in each instance, shall include the pastor or acting pastor. No Church shall exceed this last number.

ART. V. Any person contributing twenty-five ($25) dollars to the treasury of this Convention shall be a life member, with full freedom to all its deliberations, the right to vote only excepted; and any person contributing one hundred ($100) dollars shall be an Honorary Life Director of the Board of Managers, with full freedom to its deliberations, the right to vote only excepted.

ART. VI. The officers of this Convention shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Statistical Secretary, a Treasurer, and Auditor. There shall likewise be twenty-seven Directors, one-third of whom, after the first election, shall be elected annually. These officers and Directors shall constitute the Board of Managers, of which the President shall be *ex-officio* the Chairman, and the Recording Secretary the Clerk. All elections shall be by ballot. At the first election of Directors they shall be chosen in classes, the term of the first to expire at the term of the annual meeting—May, 1882; the second, May, 1883; the third, May, 1884. One-third of the Directors shall be laymen. Nine of the Board of Managers shall be a quorum. The Board shall have power to fill all vacancies, to hold office until the next annual election.

ART. VII. The Board shall meet immediately on the adjournment of the Convention, and appoint from its number an Executive Committee of seven, who shall have charge of the missionary work of the Convention, appoint and commission all missionaries, and appropriate all money. One of its number shall represent the northern and one the southern part of the State. Five shall be elected with reference to facility for business. A semi-annual meeting of the Board shall be held as it shall direct. It shall hold a meeting as early in the day as possible, preliminary to the anniversary, to listen to the report of the Executive Committee, and act thereon; a duplicate of which, in writing, shall be presented to the annual meeting, and thereafter published in the minutes.

ART. VIII. The Executive Committee shall appoint committees, from the ministry and laity of the State, of three members each, upon Home Mission, Foreign Mission, Publication Society, Sunday School, and Educational work, whose duty it shall be to attend to the interests of each of these departments of denominational life in California, to awaken sentiment, to stimulate benevolence, to collect facts as the Executive Committee may require, and to present a careful report of their work to the annual meeting.

ART. IX. Local Baptist Associations of the State are urged to become auxiliaries to the General Convention, each by the appointment of a Missionary Committee to co-operate with the Executive Committee of the Convention in State work. Associations so co-operating may appoint three delegates to the Convention. Recommendation by these Associations of any man to represent their field shall be duly considered in the annual election of the Board of Managers.

ART. X. Any Baptist organization in California, honored by the Convention in their religious and educational work, may hold organic relation to it by the appointment of one delegate for every such organization, and provision shall be made for the consideration of the claims of such organizations at the annual meeting.

ART. XI. This Convention will co-operate with all our National Baptist Societies.

ART. XII. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a three-fourths vote of all delegates present, notice of such change having been given at the previous annual meeting, and published in the minutes. Such alteration and amendment may be made at any annual meeting, on the unanimous recommendation of the Board, and adoption by a three-fourths vote.

BY-LAWS.

I. An half-hour devotional meeting shall precede each evening and morning session.

II. After singing and prayer the President shall appoint a Committee of Arrangements, a Committee on the Roll, and a Committee for the Nomination of Officers.

III. The letter or address of entertaining church shall then be received.

IV. After the annual sermon or address, the annual collection for State work shall be taken.

V. Following a report from the Enrollment Committee, the report from the Committee on the Nomination of Officers shall be made, and the organization of the Convention effected.

VI. The annual report of the Board shall be read, and addresses pending its adoption shall be made.

VII. Further committees shall be appointed by the President:

First—On Important Subjects of the Report.
Second—On the Nomination of Directors.
Third—On Place and Appointment for Next Session.
Fourth—On Obituaries.

VIII. The roll of delegates shall be called, if desired by any three of their number.

IX. Motions, if requested, shall be made in writing, and if lost shall not be published in the minutes, unless ordered by the Convention; if a member oppose the discussion of any motion or resolution, the President shall put the question, "Shall this question or resolution be discussed?" and the majority shall determine without debate.

X. All differences of opinion shall be treated with due consideration, patience, and love. All personal reflection shall be avoided. Appeals from the decision of the Chair may be made, in which case the appeal shall be decided without debate.

XI. The Recording Secretary may appoint an assistant at his pleasure. He shall call all meetings, and keep account of the doings of the Convention and of the Board of Managers.

XII. The Statistical Secretary shall prepare, as best he may by correspondence with clerks of Churches and of Associations, an itemized account of their religious and material prosperity, and tabulate the same, by Associations, in the minutes.

XIII. The Treasurer shall have charge of all the money of the Convention, and make disbursements on the order of the President and Secretary of the Board.

XIV. State work shall have special, but not exclusive claims to consideration in this Convention. The reports, of not more than fifteen minutes in length as a rule, of the Special Committees appointed by the Executive Committee, shall be followed by addresses and discussions. These reports and discussions, being of immediate practical relations to denominational life and work, shall have preference to sermons in the programme of arrangements.

XV. These Committees on Sunday School, Education, Publication Society, Home and Foreign Missions, are provisionally appointed a year in advance that they may faithfully superintend the interests of their departments, and go up to the annual meeting with reports on the same for the consideration of all Baptists in the State.

XVI. Any Baptist Church in California or Nevada, holding the general faith and practice of the denomination, may become, by a vote of three-fourths of the delegates at any annual meeting, a member of this Convention; provided, that if before the motion is put any two churches of the Convention, by their delegates, oppose such application, the same shall first be referred to an impartial committee with instructions to report at the order of the Convention.

XVII. Before the adjournment of the Convention provision shall be made for the publishing of the minutes, inclusive of the Church, Sunday School, Associational, and Benevolent statistics of the denomination.

XVIII. These By-Laws may be altered or amended in the same manner as provided for in the Constitution.

MINUTES

OF THE

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

OF

THE GENERAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

OF

CALIFORNIA.

FIRST DAY.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 10, 1882.

The Convention met this day at 7:30 P. M. with the Fifth Baptist Church, the President, Rev. S. B. Morse of East Oakland, in the chair.

The President appointed the usual Committees.

Rev. W. T. Fleenor of Stockton, who was appointed to preach the Convention sermon, being unwell, Rev. H I. Parker, D. D., of Santa Ana, delivered a sermon in his place, taking as his text Ps. 8: 1, 3 and 4 verses.

The Committee on Enrollment, by its Chairman, Rev. J. S. Jesse, reported 22 churches present. There were subsequently added to the roll 6 churches, making total number present 28, as follows:

First, San Francisco—Rev. W. M. Kincaid, A. B. Forbes, E. F. Joy, John F. Pope and B. C. Wright.

Fifth, San Francisco—Rev. D. T. Van Doren, P. D. Code, J. L. Merguire.

First, Oakland—Rev. G. S. Abbott, D. D., J. P. Cogswell, J. R. Bradway, J. L. Lyon and H. Garthwaite.

Trinity, Oakland—Rev. J. M. Fowler, E. S. Fowler, Mrs. Thompson.

First, East Oakland—Rev. S. B. Morse, J. R. Mason, E. H. Lenox and George Griffiths.

First, Alameda—J. L. Caster, Wm. Bynam, Mrs. Edson.
Calvary, Sacramento—Rev. J. Q. A. Henry, G. O. Hayford, Mrs. G. O. Hayford, Miss Orphia Butler, J. L. Robinette.
First, Santa Cruz—Rev. T. J. Weil, Miss A. Rigby.
First, Penryn—Rev. R. Williamson.
Wheatland—Rev. J. S. Jesse, B. F. Dam, Mrs. A. Dam.
First, Stockton—Rev. W. T. Fleenor, Dea. E. R. Stockwell, J. M. Rowe, T. K. Hook, Mrs. C. R. Ralph.
Vacaville—Rev. J. B. Saxton, D. D., Dea. J. Donaldson, Wesley Hill.
Chinese, San Francisco—Rev. J. B. Hartwell, D. D., Lin Lin Him, Wong, Kwai Hong.
First, Santa Ana—Rev. H. I. Parker, D. D., Mrs. S. H. Hersan, Rev. L. Whitney.
Second, Stockton—Rev. P. H. Peck.
Cornell, Vallejo—Rev. E. H. Gray, D. D., Mrs. E. H. Gray.
Modesto—Rev. M. D. Gage.
Ceres—H. Wooster, Rev. M. D. Gage.
First, Los Angeles—By letter.
First, San Diego—By letter.
First, Santa Barbara—By letter.
First, Spadra—By letter.

NEW CHURCHES.

First, Sacramento—Rev. A. J. Frost, D. D., Dea. F. H. L. Webber, G. K. Van Huren, Mrs. G. K. Van Huren, H. Huntsman.
Yountville—By letter.
First Chico—Rev. J. N. Burroughs.
Red Bluff—By letter.
Salinas—By letter.
Gonzales—By letter.

The Committee on Arrangements, by its Chairman, Rev. J. Q. A. Henry, submitted the following as the order of business for to-morrow's session, which, on motion, was adopted:

9 to 9.30 A.M.—Devotional exercises, led by Rev. M. D. Gage.
9.30 to 10—Reports on Sunday Schools.
10 to 10.30—Sermon on Sunday Schools by Rev. M. D. Gage.
10.30 to 11—Report on Home and Foreign Missions.
11 to 12—Sermon on Missions by Rev. J. Q. A. Henry.

The Committee on Nominations reported by its Chairman, Rev. W. M. Kincaid, the following individuals to serve as officers of the Convention for the ensuing year:

For President—Rev. H. I. Parker, D. D.
For Vice-Presidents—Rev. J. B. Saxton, D. D., B. C. Wright.
For Recording Secretary—C. W. Dearborn.
For Statistical Secretary—Rev. J. Q. A. Henry.
For Treasurer—E. R. Stockwell.
For Auditor—P. D. Code.

Moved that Dr. Gray cast the ballot of the Convention for the nominees as officers of the Convention for the ensuing year. Carried.

Dr. Gray cast the ballot, and the above named persons were declared elected to their respective offices for the ensuing year.

The retiring President, Rev. S. B. Morse, welcomed Rev. H. I. Parker, D. D., to the Chair.

Moved that we listen to the report of the Board of Managers of the Convention. Carried.

Dr. Abbott, Chairman of the Executive Committee, read the report.

In the absence of Rev. D. T. Van Doren, pastor of the church, on account of sickness Dr. Abbott gav · the address of welcome to the Convention.

Moved that a committee of three be appointed to send telegraphic greeting to the Southern Baptist Convention, in session at Greenville, South Carolina. Carried, and Rev. T. J. Weil, Rev. J. Q. A. Henry and P. D. Code were appointed such committee, who subsequently forwarded the following dispatch:

San Francisco, May 10, 1882.

Southern Baptist Convention, Greenville, S. C.:
Greeting. 2 Thess. 2: 13–17. T. J. Weil,
For General Baptist Convention.

Moved that the report from the Board of Managers be adopted, and printed in the minutes. Carried.

REPORT.

Brethren of the Board of the General Baptist Convention of California:
Your Executive Committee present to you a statement to-day of the first

year's work entrusted to their hands, with one feeling in their hearts dominant over all others.

They feel that it is due for them to put on record their deepening conviction that the hand of the Lord has been with the General Baptist Convention both in the wisdom of the measures that led to its organization, in the purity of the motives of the churches whose delegations formed its constituent life, in the spirit of the pastors and laymen who entered into its organization, and in the crystalline conscientiousness of their design in all they have done hitherto to secure thereby that one desirable result of all Christian activity, the unmistakable honor and glory of God. They saw not how they could do otherwise, and the logic of events has proved that in so doing they have met with the universal approval of all disinterested Baptists of the United States. From Dixon in May, 1881, to Stockton in October of that year, and from Stockton to San Francisco, they believe the way of the Lord has been marked as by a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night. To God be the glory, then, for the birth and development of the General Baptist Convention of California. Its organizers hardly knew by what favoring Providence they would come to the kingdom in a time like this. But God, who looks after the Mordecais of his people, knew it all, and brought the result to pass. There were some at the time, not of us then, who are of us now; some who held divergent thought from ours, who since have seen reason, we trust, in our action and accorded to us justification for the same. Of such as these we speak, as the Executive Committee of your Board, with kindness and assurance. The State, entrusted to the occupancy of the General Baptist Convention, is a most large and correspondingly difficult one to cover organically. Nevertheless, it is for our Convention to show its competence for this high investment of responsibility, and to show it at its first anniversary, in the magnanimity of that Christian spirit, whatever its trials hitherto, that asks for nothing save sympathy with the legitimate work of the Convention. Our Convention was begotten with the purpose of maintaining the high character of the Baptist Church and its ministry from opprobrium in the world, and by this lofty service made meet for holding forth the Word of Life to the perishing hundreds of thousands in California. On this acknowledged plane of unselfish Christian propagandism the General Baptist Convention stands to-day, stands as of right and power under God to live and thereon welcomes any and all who come to it in affinity with its mission in California.

This affinity being assured, the Executive Committee feel bound by that charity which beareth all things, and hopeth all things, to say to every Baptist pastor and church in the State: "As your heart is as our heart, come, give us your hand."

One Convention, under one bond of pure and unspotted Christian character, striving together for the faith of the gospel is ours to make notable this year, brethren of the board, in the steadfastness of our faith, in the cheer of our hope, in the largeness of our charity, in this first annual meeting to

be held, and may all true Baptists among us and everywhere say *Amen*. So shall this General Baptist Convention, covering an area of 160,000 square miles of State life, inhabited by nearly a million of human beings from all continents and islands of the earth, place herself as a servant waiting orders at the gateway of the Palace of the King.

In all matters bearing on the organic life of our Convention, provisionally fixed only at Dixon, in May, 1881, the necessary adoption of the Articles of its Constitution and of its By-Laws, was attended to at a subsidiary meeting at Stockton. Under this Constitution and By-Laws the Convention is working to-day without known violation or strain of the same at any one point. The said Constitution and By-Laws are believed to be an embodiment of the end and the means to the end for which the General Convention has been called into existence. As a whole the same Constitution and By-Laws of which we speak, are believed to be a highly satisfactory constitutional compact, enshrining the moral purpose and vigorous activity of its founders.

Your Executive Committee have attempted all that could well be done under a condition of affairs that were for several months exceptional and anomalous. They have striven to justify your acts by extensive correspondence with the officials of the Home Mission Society, and have the pleasure of reporting that that endorsement has been accorded, in plainness of speech that is not at all equivocal. They knew that in your name they at first carried the great majority of the Baptist constituency of California, and so, the General Baptist Convention received its recognition from the American Baptist Home Mission Society, Nov. 14, 1881, in the formal vote of its Board to co-operate on the former basis of $2 from the Society in addition to every $1 raised by the new Convention for missionary purposes in the State. In the words of the letter bearing this most welcome tidings, Dr. Morehouse writes to us as a Convention as follows: "The cause for which you have struggled so grandly has triumphed. Now may the troubles of our church in California forever cease from their troubling, and henceforth may we see a new era in our denominational work in the State. I believe that the bitter experiences of the past will make our brethren the more resolute and vigilant that a repetition of the evils under which our cause in California has so long staggered shall not be known again."

Your Executive Committee may well be empowered at the first meeting of the General Convention, to take some formal action, appreciative of this recognition by the Home Board of our young Convention, and to express to it, by resolution, the purpose of our people, thus bound together in State and National covenant, to hold this fellowship in mutual honor and service. As this recognition of our body in the first year of its existence comes in the fiftieth year of the life of the A. B. H. M. Society, the same resolution might well express the gratitude of Baptists of California for the $70,000 appropriated already from the Home Mission treasury to the missionary and church edifice work of the State. This amount, though not large in the

light of the number of years of these contributions, may be held to be justly generous in view of accrued results.

Your Committee received, early in January of the present year, notice from the Home Board of the overdraft on the Home Mission treasury of $59,000, necessitating a discontinuance of further applications on its hands, and a putting of all beneficiaries from its bounty on half appropriations. This was a source of regret to us, as several applications for aid were in our hands from deserving pastors. It was but a brief suspense of appropriation however, for the embarassment was shortly relieved, and aid was renewed, and to the full amount as pledged by commissions existing and allowed.

Aid has been rendered wherever the need has been felt to be apparent and unquestioned, though in some instances it is to be feared that aid is solicited, where the ability of the church so aided, is insufficiently taxed in the line of self-support.

Your Committee believe that some action might well be contemplated in the future, if not at once, urging a larger degree of self-support on churches able to look after themselves, instead of depleting the treasury of the Convention of funds, that are pre-eminently due to infant and feeble churches at important points in the State. The matter is a delicate one to be undertaken, but all parties will note that the Executive Committee, seeing the possibility of numerous applications soon on their hands, cannot well place money exclusively save where known indigence of church life in a promising locality appeals for sure and speedy assistance.

Your Board is asked to consider the desirableness of urging all missionaries of the Home Mission Society in California to bind themselves organically with the General Baptist Convention. To this end the Executive Committee might well be instructed to appeal to the Home Mission Society, so to urge their beneficiaries to connect themselves by reports and otherwise, in order that the entire missionary force of the State may act under one superintending Convention. Otherwise unity will be jeopardized in the administration of our denominational life.

There have been occasions for sorrow in the force of our missionary life the past year. The death of Rev. C. W. Hewes, one of our missionaries, the beloved pastor of the church whose doors have been thrown open to us this year, is fresh in our memory with all its trying details. Of his work as a missionary we shall have the witness of the eye in the sanctuary and outside of it, beautified by his hand, and of the people to whom he ministered, whose guests we are this year. The only sad thing about it is this, that his ears are closed to what all have it in their heart to render as quite too tardy, but none the less deserved praise. But it is not too late to speak kind words withheld in life. He has passed to a land where an overwrought mind is unclouded forever, a land but a few days distant from us all. But he and we rejoice that his work is left to the hands of a successor, the beginnings of whose pastorate are full of the argury of enlarged success.

Aside from this instance of death our missionary force is continued in life

and usefulness. Our brother, Rev. H. I. Parker, D. D., of Santa Ana, is doing able and vigorous work in the imperceptible years of his advanced life, in a community that is possibly as promising as any in Southern California. A personal visit made by us makes our testimony all the more just, in saying that Dr. Parker is a minister of the gospel honored by the entire population in the midst of which he lives.

At Riverside and at San Bernardino, our brother, Rev. Charles Button, labors as missionary jointly. His time for the past year has been largely occupied in the erection of a meeting-house in each of these towns. His work on them is far advanced. The house at San Bernardino is quite completed and ready for dedication. It has been a year of hard work with Bro. Button, and at a time of high prosperity in these southern towns. For all the success he has met with in church building we accord to him our thanks, and especially for any degree of construction and completion of church architecture *out of debt*, the latest noticeable instance of which may be recorded of the Baptist church in Woodland. This for the present stands as the banner church.

Rev. J. S. Jesse of Wheatland is a beloved missionary of our Convention. The report which comes from him, and what is better from others who supplant his modesty, is of a cheering character. The need of this field is a meeting-house. Of its claims the delegates from it will speak. The favorable action of the Board in the case is commended.

Rev. J N. Burroughs of Chico made application for aid in the fall of 1881, and received it on what appeared then and appears still one of the most important points in California to hold. He was believed to be a good and true man, worthy of aid, and adapted to that position. At present there is an unfortunate state of things, however, among Baptists of Chico, for which Bro. Burroughs is far from being entirely responsible, as will appear to those who care to examine correspondence in our hands. It is a case for adjustment wisely and speedily as possible, or for suspension of aid until this end can be reached.

Aid has been granted to Rev. M. D. Gage of Modesto, one of the oldest and best pastors in our State. His commission contemplates Sabbath service in Ceres and also in Modesto. In the latter place the Baptist church worships in a house on which the Congregationalists claim they have a lien, in spite of a lease which our people supposed held good for five years. The matter, however, is under advisement, and it is hoped will be satisfactorily adjusted. At Ceres our good Baptist people are entering into the first inspiration to build, and it is confidently hoped that they will carry their desires into early effect. As Baptists they occupy undoubtedly and safely the ground. May it be immediately harvested is the prayer of your Executive Committee.

Rev. J. S. Ross, of Caspar, known to many of us, has been another of our missionaries doing work in a hard field, but of his present relations to the Home Board we have had no communication. The same is true of Rev. T. G. McLean, of Carpinteria.

Another one of our missionaries for some time, Rev. S. S. Fisk, whose words so cheered us at Stockton, has been at his post since that time, and is now contemplating the construction of a meeting house at Santa Barbara. Rev. P. W. Dorsey, of Los Angeles, received his appointment as a missionary before the time of the recognition of our Convention, but of the wisdom of his appointment we have no doubt. He is a most worthy minister of the Gospel; active, able, devoted young Irishman that he is, graduate of the University and Seminary at Rochester. The Baptist cause in Los Angeles, as Dr. Parker informs us, is 500 per cent. in advance of three years ago. A lot costing $2,500 has been paid for on which to build a house of worship, for the lack of which our Baptist cause in that strong center of Southern California has suffered for years. In the death of Dea. Isaac Lankershim, the Baptist cause in Los Angeles has lost a benefactor, and still, when a Moses dies, as Bro. Dorsey writes us, God can raise up a Joshua for the further leadership of his people. The warm consideration of the Baptists of California are bespoken by the Executive Committee for Bro. Dorsey of Los Angeles.

Rev. S. C. Keltch, of Salinas City, has been approved as a missionary of our Convention. His application is now in the hands of the Home Board, and will probably receive concurrent action. Rev. G. R. Read, of Alameda, now in Southern California, has been a missionary of our people in this State for the past three years. He has felt obliged to relinquish his pastorate over our Baptist people in Alameda, where he put forth with his own hands a good deal of faithful work. The Lord still care for the small Alameda band, and lead it out of trial into a large and fertile field.

On the whole, as will appear in the business to come before us by reports from Committees, and particularly in the report of the Treasurer of our Convention, all the friends of this Body have occasion to say, "*Hitherto the Lord has helped us.*" May that help never be forfeited by infidelity to Him or to His cause entrusted so peacefully and momentously to our hands.

G. S. Abbott, Chairman.

The President then appointed the following committees:

On Important Subjects in the Report—Rev. J. B. Saxton, D. D., Rev. E. H. Gray, D. D., Rev. J. Q. A. Henry.

On Nomination of Directors—Rev. J. S. Jesse, Rev. M. D. Gage, Dea. E. R. Stockwell.

On Place and Appointments for Next Session—Rev. A. L. Frost, D. D., P. D. Code and C. W. Dearborn.

On Obituaries—Rev. G. S. Abbott, D. D., and Dea. J. L. Merguire.

The Committee on Admission of New Churches presented a partial report, recommending the reception of the First Baptist Church of Sacramento into the membership of the Convention. On motion, the report was adopted.

The President put the question to the Convention, "Is any church or churches opposed to the admission of this church to the membership of the Convention?" and, none opposing, the question of admission was put, and it was voted unanimously to receive the First Church of Sacramento.

Moved that the President extend the hand of fellowship to Dr. Frost as the representative of the First Church of Sacramento, and other churches that may hereafter be admitted to the Convention, to-morrow evening at the First Baptist Church. Carried.

Meeting adjourned till to-morrow (Thursday) morning at 9 A. M.

SECOND DAY.

THURSDAY, May 11.

Convention met at 10 o'clock, A. M., the President in the Chair.

Prayer by Rev. W. T. Fleenor.

The Secretary being absent, Rev. J. S. Jesse was appointed Secretary pro tem.

HOME MISSIONS.

The report of the Committee on Home Missions was read by Dr. Gray, Chairman, and after interesting discussion was adopted as follows:

God has committed to the General Baptist Convention of California, a great field for Home Mission work; the prospective harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few and widely scattered. How pertinent to us the direc-

tion of the Saviour to his disciples, "Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." But God works through means. Hence, in connection with our prayers, we must seek for the men as laborers, and for the means to put them into the field.

Our State work for the past year has not been commensurate with the demands. The Macedonian cry from many feeble churches and destitute localities, has been loud and urgent for help. But the needed help could not be given. Though the American Baptist Home Mission Society, of New York, still continues its magnificent donation of adding two dollars to every one we raise, to be expended on our State Mission work, yet the amount realized under this stimulating offer has been unfortunately meagre, still we are far from being discouraged. We thank God for good accomplished on our Home field; important points have been held, such as Alameda, Santa Barbara, Santa Ana, Los Angeles, Salinas City, Wheatland, Casper and Red Bluff; and such noble and self-sacrificing men as Revs. G. R. Read, H. I. Parker, S. S. Fisk, P. W. Dorsey, M. D. Gage, J. S. Ross, J. S. Jesse, C. C. Bateman and T. G. McLean have been aided, though uniformly by small appropriations. These men, in the name of the Lord Jesus, have planted and maintained the standard of the gospel at different points, and have done and are still doing a noble work.

We thank God for the success which has attended their labors. But we need more money and more men. May God send us both. We must have more means to carry forward this work. We must enlarge our Home work and give it more efficiency. The opportunity for taking California for Christ is passing. We must lose no time. All the agencies for destruction are vigorously at work. What we do must be done soon. The churches must do more. Individual christians must do more. Our whole Body on this coast must be aroused to the great necessity and importance of Home work. All must help, and all help what they can. Then we may look for the divine blessing and shout, "Harvest Home."

E. H. Gray,
J. Q. A. Henry.

After discussion of the above report, Rev. J. Q. A. Henry, of the Calvary Church of Sacramento, preached the missionary sermon; text, Acts 2:41.

STATISTICS.

After the singing of a hymn, the Statistical Secretary, Rev. J. Q. A. Henry, presented his annual report. The following were some of the interesting facts it contained :

There are seven Baptist associations in California, as follows: The Central, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Clear Lake, Tulare, Pacific, and Sacramento

River. These associations contain 77 churches, with 46 pastors and 3,824 members of Baptist churches in the State. There are about 80 ordained ministers, 55 of them with churches. Ten missionaries are employed by the associations. Reports have been received from 37 churches of the State. In these churches, 263 baptisms have been made and 582 members have been added in all. There have been 243 diminutions by death and dismissal. The present total membership of these churches is 2,701.

These churches possess property valued at $175,264, with an indebtedness of $48,410, with houses of worship with a seating capacity for 8,670 members. The average attendance at public meetings was 2,955. The total annual running expenses of these churches were $31,838.75. These churches have contributed to Foreign Missions, $388.61; for Home Missions, $975,37; for American Baptist Publication Society, $204.35; for other benevolences, $492.20. In connection with these churches are twenty-five Sunday Schools with an enrollment of 2,691 scholars, and possessing libraries valued at $2,000.35, containing 5,005 volumes. Of these schools, twenty-two use denominational literature, two none at all, and one mixed. The First Baptist Sunday School of San Francisco is the banner Sunday School of the State. It has an enrollment of 315 scholars and 34 teachers. It possesses a library of 1,200 volumes, valued at $900. The annual expenses of the school average $616.85. The First Church in Stockton was the banner church in Foreign Mission contributions, giving $72.01. Calvary Church of Sacramento was the banner church in Home Mission contributions, giving $183.35.

The above abstract is taken from the *S. F. Evening Bulletin*, which published very full and accurate reports of the Convention proceedings.

On motion, the thanks of the Convention were given to Rev. J. Q. A. Henry, for his labor in securing the statistics of the churches. Mr. Henry left for New York immediately after his sermon, hence the omission of the usual tabulated statement.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sunday Schools, by their Chairman, Rev. S. B. Morse, presented the following report, which was discussed in a very interesting manner by various brethren. The report, as finally adopted, reads as follows:

Your Committee beg leave to report and suggest the following:

Believing that through the Sunday School largely we must reach the families in our communities who are not connected with any church, and that from the young and rising generation we must receive recruits for the army

of the Lord Jesus, we therefore recommend and suggest that through our Sunday Schools we make every possible endeavor to diffuse and circulate our denominational literature; that having now a depository on this Coast, we have facilities for doing this such as we have not had before, we recommend that this branch of denominational work be liberally patronized, that our Sunday School libraries may no longer be stocked with mongrel literature, that our scholars may in their Sunday School training become indoctrinated in Baptist truth. A Baptist Sunday School without Baptist literature and Baptist teachers had best change its *tactics* or its *name* at once. A Baptist Sunday School that allows one half its scholars to slide off into pedo churches, shows a sad remissness and negligence in proper training and instruction,

We recommend the holding of Baptist Sunday School Institutes once in three months, similar to the one held in March last under the supervision of Dr. Abbott, at the First Church in San Francisco; and that one of these be held in the Southern portion of the State, one in the Northern, and two at the Bay. We believe our Sunday School workers would receive a great benefit from participation in such institutes.

We recommend that three delegates from this Convention be sent to the State Sunday School Convention, meeting at Stockton, May 16th.

We suggest that, as far as practical, Sunday School concerts be held quarterly. The concerts should, of course, be thoroughly *sacred* and religious in their nature, and if properly conducted they may be of as great moral power and benefit as the usual preaching services, but they should never be made *mere entertainments*. By means of the Sunday School concert a class of persons may be reached and brought out to church which rarely attend divine service.

We recommend and believe that the spirit of benevolence should be inculcated in all our schools, and suggest that at least *one annual* collection be taken for some one of our great denominational societies. And moreover, that on Christmas occasions the scholars should learn that it is quite as blessed to give as to receive. We know of schools that have besides the Christmas tree for the school, another tree for the poor, to which all the scholars are invited to contribute. S. B. Morse.

The discussion of above report was suspended to listen to report of Committee on Arrangements, as follows:

1.30–2.00. Meeting of Woman's Home Mission Society.
2.00–2.30. Further discussion of Sunday School report.
2.30–3.00. Report of Committee on Foreign Missions,
3.00–4.00. Educational Sermon.
4.00–5.00. Meeting of Women's Foreign Mission Society.

The above report was adopted and the Convention adjourned for lunch.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Woman's Baptist Foreign Missionary Society of the Pacific Coast held its annual meeting in the First Baptist Church Thursday morning, the President, Mrs. J. P. Cogswell, presiding. The reports from the various churches of California, Oregon and Washington Territory were most gratifying, showing a marked increase in the interest felt on this Coast in the cause of foreign missions. This interest has manifested itself in a practical manner, as the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. G. S. Abbott, reported several new bands organized for work; and the Treasurer, Mrs. B. C. Wright, reported an increase of $216 over the receipts of last year.

The old officers were elected for the ensuing year, as follows:

President—Mrs. J. P. Cogswell.
Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. G. S. Abbott.
Recording Secretary—Miss Clara Hull.
Treasurer—Mrs. Benj. C. Wright.

WOMAN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

At 1.30 P. M. the annual meeting of the Woman's Baptist Home Missionary Society of California was held at the Fifth Baptist Church, the President, Mrs. E. H. Gray, presiding. The reports from the various churches, and of the Treasurer, Mrs. O. K. Wright, showed that the deepening interest in missions is not confined to the work in the foreign field, the Treasurer's receipts for the year being $190.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

President—Mrs. E. H. Gray.
Vice-President—Mrs. S. B. Morse.
Corresponding Secretary—Miss Ella Bradway.
Recording Secretary—Miss Ella Dearborn.
Treasurer—Mrs. O. K. Wright.

Convention called to order by the President at 2 P. M.

Prayer offered by Rev. W. M. Kincaid.

The report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was further discussed and finally adopted as above.

On motion, Revs. W. M. Kincaid, W. T. Fleenor and S. B. Morse were appointed delegates to attend the Sunday School Convention at Stockton.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Committee on Foreign Missions, by its chairman, Rev. J. B. Hartwell, presented the following report, which was, after discussion, adopted:

The friends of Foreign Missions have occasion to thank God and take courage. From our missionaries in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, Mexico, and the islands of the sea, come tidings of hope and cheer in regard to the future, as well as of success during the year past. Converts are multiplying more and more rapidly every year, and the native Christians are growing in the knowledge of God's word, and in their ability to expound it to their countrymen. Year after year is adding its testimony to the reliability of the work done, and the permanence of the results secured. There is reason to hope, too, that in the churches in some parts at least of this country the missionary spirit has been deepening, as manifested in increased desire for information and in the increased contributions to the cause. From the American Baptist Missionary Union we have the gratifying information that the receipts for the year ending April 1st amounted to $302,548.19, a larger amount than the Union ever before received in one year for current work.

It is remarkable how God is opening the way and manifestly increasing the demand for mission work in all parts of the world. Old systems of superstition and idolatry are crumbling, and the question with thousands of the emancipated is, "To what shall we turn?" Idolatry is failing faster than Christianity is ready to take its place. India, China, Japan, Italy, France, Spain are all experiencing just this state of things. Such remarks as the following from a late number of the *Missionary Magazine* we are constantly meeting in letters from missionaries and others on the ground prepared to form opinions: "France is ready to break from the Pope, and India is on the eve of forsaking her idols. The great danger is not that they will not destroy them fast enough, but that there will be nothing to take their place when they are destroyed. Again, the forces that are at work to destroy the idolatry and superstitions of Hindooism will probably lead the nation into universal skepticism." A missionary in India writes that his station used to be visited every year by idol-venders selling images by the cart-

load, but that not a single Tetzel has visited them for eight years, and that Brahmans, who used to be the best-paid men in India, are to-day almost the poorest paid; and adds, "No one can make a mistake in saying that Brahmanism is doomed." Our dear Bro. Dobbins writes from Japan: "The whole nation is awake; it is discussing Christianity; it cannot relapse into its old Paganism; it will drift either into open infidelity and atheism, or into a modified heathenism; or it will be converted to Christianity. If the men come, and come now, from our Christian churches in America, we have every reason to hope that this will speedily become a Christian nation."

Our missionaries in China have been standing for some years in a state of expectancy and dread, seeing changes, tremendous and far-reaching, impending in the near future, and awaiting, with hope and trembling, the result, feeling that they, with their inadequate numbers and appliances, are absolutely unequal to the obligations that will be upon them. The bare statement of these facts suggests how tremendously and imperiously the demands of God are increasing upon us in this direction. These demands *must be met*. To retire in the hour of battle is desertion; to fail at the known strategic moment is treason. But, thank God, we are not altogether of them who draw back. Thank God American Baptists have raised more means for Missions during the last twelve months than ever in the same period before, and our brethren, both north and south, are vigorously reinforcing their old Missions and opening new ones.

Meantime, what part are California Baptists taking in the fray? The Statistical Secretary reports that 13 churches have contributed to this cause during the conventional year the sum of $388.61, a sum certainly not proportionate to the magnitude and demands of the work, nor worthy of the Baptist brotherhood of this great State. How are we to better this state of things? We answer, by enlisting the *hearts* of our people. Make christians feel that their Redeemer requires means, and money will flow like water. We feel that often, in the advocacy of our benevolent enterprises, a fatal mistake is made in setting the collecting of money too prominently in the forefront. It is not a few spasmodic efforts that we need, but a steady education in the needs of the work, and the scriptural obligations of each individual to take part therein. To this end your committee would urge:

1st. That special efforts be made to increase the circulation of missionary literature, particularly of the missionary monthlies, giving facts fresh from the several missionary fields.

2d. That in each church one regular prayer-meeting each month be devoted to prayer and gathering information on the subject of Missions, and that the members, old and young, take part, in the way of essays and addresses on particular fields or phases of the Mission work.

J. B. Hartwell,
G. A. Hull,
W. T. Fleenor,
Committee.

NEW CHURCHES.

The Committee on Admission of New Churches reported as follows:

The committee recommends the following churches to be received as members of the General Baptist Convention—namely, the Baptist churches in Red Bluff, Yountville, Salinas, Gonzales, and the First Church in Chico.

E. H. Gray,
W. T. Fleenor,
J. B. Hartwell,
Robert Williamson,
J. F. Pope.

On motion, the report was adopted, and the President having put the question and no one opposing, the above named churches were received into membership of the Convention.

PRINCIPAL POINTS IN REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed to consider Principal Points in Report of Executive Committee reported as follows, which was, on motion, adopted:

Your committee, to whom was referred the Report of the Executive Committee of the General Baptist Convention of California, respectfully recommend that said committee be authorized to express (through Dr. Abbott, their chairman) to the Home Mission Society our appreciation for their hearty recognition of this body, and co-operation with us in the evangelization of our State, accepting their liberal appropriations in years past as an earnest of their abiding interest in the responsible work our Convention has assumed.

We also recommend that the missionaries receiving aid be urged to identify themselves with this Convention, by forwarding to the Executive Board a duplicate of their quarterly report to the Home Mission Board in New York. Also, that each church connected with the Convention be solicited to adopt some plan, through special committee or otherwise, by which each member shall be personally requested to contribute regularly to the funds of this Convention.

J. B. Saxton,
E. H. Gray.

The Educational Sermon was then preached by Rev. A. L. Cole, D. D., of Dixon, at the request of Dr. Abbott, who was assigned this subject.

The subject of Higher Christian Education was discussed by different brethren, but further discussion was, on motion, postponed until after Educational Report.

On motion, vote of thanks was extended to Dr. Cole for his able presentation of the subject of Higher Christian Education.

The Committee of Arrangements reported as follows for the business of the evening session:

7.30—Convention meets.
7.40—Report of Treasurer.
7.45—Sermon by Rev. W. T. Fleenor.
8.15—Devotional exercises.
8.30—Addresses on *The Herald of Truth* as an agency of great helpfulness to our Baptist cause, and claims to generous assistance by our people.
Closing exercise. Right hand of fellowship to churches admitted to this Convention.

Adjourned to meet at First Baptist Church at 7.30 P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

MAY 11TH, 7.30 P. M.

Convention met at the First Baptist Church, the President in the chair.

Prayer was offered by Rev. S. C. Price.

The resignation of C. W. Dearborn as Secretary of the Convention, was presented, and, on motion, was accepted.

On motion, E. R. Pope was chosen Secretary of the Convention.

On motion, the Secretary and B. C. Wright were appointed committee to have charge of printing and distribution of the minutes.

The Treasurer then read his report, as follows, which, on motion, was received and ordered published in the minutes:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Benj. C. Wright, Treasurer, in account with the General Baptist Convention of California.

RECEIPTS.

Calvary, Sacramento	$182 37
First, San Francisco	176 50
First, Sacramento	100 80
First, Stockton	93 85
First, Oakland	89 50
First, East Oakland	64 35
Cornell, Vallejo	43 00
Ceres	24 00
First, Alameda	21 65
Fifth, San Francisco	20 00
First, Santa Clara	18 50
First, Santa Cruz	9 35
First, San Diego	9 25
Yountville	7 40
Duarte	6 50
Red Bluff	6 05
Trinity, Oakland	6 00
Modesto	5 00
Mendocino	4 50
First, Santa Barbara	1 35
Dixon Convention Collections	36 55
Central Baptist Association Collection	18 00
Membership Woman's Home Mission Society	36 00
Mrs. Dr. E. H. Gray, for Life Membership W. H. M. S	25 00
Total receipts, May 12, 1881, to May 10, 1882	$1,005 47

DISBURSEMENTS.

Remitted to Home Mission Society, New York	$824 37
Teacher in Dr. Hartwell's Chinese School, San Francisco	150 00
Dixon Convention Proceedings in *Herald of Truth*	11 10
Telegram to Dr. Morehouse, New York	5 00
Lighting and care of Dixon Church	4 00
Postage and Stationery for Secretary's use	4 00
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society	7 00
Total disbursements	$1,005 47

BENJ. C. WRIGHT, Treasurer.

Approved by J. R. BRADWAY, Auditor.

Moved that the thanks of the Convention be extended to Benjamin C. Wright for the faithful performance of his duties as Treasurer of this Convention. Carried unanimously.

Rev. W. T. Fleenor, of Stockton, then preached a sermon from the words, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I," Ps. 61: 2.

Addresses in the interest of the *Herald of Truth* were made by Rev. Mr. Morse, Dr. Cole, Robt. Williamson, Rev. Mr. Fleenor, Dr. Gray and others.

Dr. Abbott then presented to the Convention a gavel which he had had made of various woods, representing different sections of the country, beautifully mounted with gold and silver, the same to be used at the Semi-Centennial Anniversary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society at New York. In accepting this Gavel to be donated to the above society, the Convention resolved to make an investment in the same for the benefit of the treasury of the *Herald of Truth*. The sum of about $200 in money and subscriptions to the paper was pledged.

The President gave the hand of fellowship to Rev. J. N. Burroughs as delegate from the First Church of Chico.

Adjourned to meet with the First Baptist Church to-morrow morning at 9:30.

THIRD DAY.

FRIDAY, May 12, 1882.

The Convention met this day at the First Baptist Church, at 10 o'clock, A. M. The President in the Chair.

Prayer was offered by Rev. J. N. Burroughs.

The Committee on Place and Appointments for next Session reported as follows, which was, on motion, adopted:

The Place of meeting, the First Baptist Church of Oakland.

The Time of meeting, the second Wednesday in May (9th), 1883.

Convention sermon to be preached by Rev. W. M. Kincaid; alternate, Rev. Evan Davis.

The Committee on Nomination of Directors, by their Chairman, Rev. J. S. Jesse, reported as follows, and on motion their report was adopted:

Your Committee on Nomination of Directors of this Convention for 1885, recommend the following brethren to fill the vacancies caused by expiration of term, viz.: Rev. A. J. Frost, D. D., Rev. J. B. Saxton, D. D., Rev. J. S. Jesse, Rev. S. S. Fisk, Rev. D. T. VanDoren, T. K. Hook, J. L. Merguire, G. A. Hull, J. P. Cogswell.

EDUCATION.

The Committee on Education reported, by its Chairman, Rev. Dr. Abbott, as follows, which was, after discussion, adopted:

Your Committee of Education beg leave to report that they find in the State of California, among Baptists, but few facilities for the higher Christian education of the children of our people. Such facilities as there are, are chiefly in the Female Seminary at Sacramento.

We believe it to be a subject for the immediate consideration of our people how far, if at all, it is possible to enlist the friends of higher Christian learning in a revival of the interest in it, taken years ago; and to what end, meeting this demand measurably at least, the General Baptist Convention of California may be of service. We recommend that a Committee of Conference—of five—be appointed by this body to entertain all propositions looking to enlarged educational facilities, and to report thereon, as soon as possible, to the Board; and to confer with the Trustees of California College, at Vacaville, to see how far the property of the college, either there or elsewhere, may be sooner or later available for the object to which it was originally designed.

Your Committee recommend that the same Committee of Conference be authorized to visit any seminary or seminaries, under the patronage of Baptists, with assurances of hearty denominational endorsement of their work.

G. S. Abbott, Chairman.

In accordance with the foregoing report, Revs. Kincaid, Fleenor, Abbott, Morse, and Gray were appointed as Committee of Conference.

CHINESE MISSION SOCIETY.

The Committee appointed to organize a Chinese Society reported as follows:

Your Committee, appointed to organize a Chinese Mission Society, report that during the supplemental meeting of the Convention, last October, such a Society was organized, with a membership of twenty-six, and the following officers: President, Rev. G. S. Abbott; Vice-President, Rev. S. B. Morse; Corresponding Secretary, Rev. J. B. Hartwell; Treasurer, H. Garthwaite. The Committee recommend that the Constitutions at that time adopted for the Society, and for branch societies, herewith submitted, be published in the minutes of this body, and that the churches be urged to organize branch societies to co-operate with the central body.

Rev. J. B. Hartwell, Chairman.

CONSTITUTION OF THE BAPTIST CHINESE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA.

Article 1. This Society, organized at the instance of the General Baptist Convention of California and to be a constituent of the Convention, shall be called the Baptist Chinese Missionary Society of California, and shall have for its object the promotion of Chinese evangelization in the State, by prayer, direct work, and contributions in money, and by such other means as may be practicable.

Article 2. The payment of $1.00 into the treasury of the Society or any of its branches, will entitle any person to annual membership in the Society, and the payment of $10.00 at one time, to life membership.

Article 3. The officers shall be, a President, a Vice-President, a Corresponding and Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be members in good standing of some regular Baptist Church. They shall hold office one year, or till their successors have been elected, and their duties shall be those usually appertaining to such offices.

Article 4. The regular annual meeting of the Society shall be held in the month of May, in connection with the meeting of the General Baptist Convention of California, to which body it shall make a report of work done and money received and expended during the year by the Society and its branches.

Article 5. (a) The President, Secretary, and Treasurer, with two other members appointed annually by the Society, shall be constituted an Executive Committee, to whom shall be committed all unfinished business from the annual meetings, and all necessary business in the intervals between meetings.

(b) This Executive Committee shall be incorporated under the laws of California, and shall be charged with the receipt and disbursement of all the funds of the Society, under such instructions, general and particular, as the Society at its regular meetings shall give.

(c) This Committee shall meet quarterly, and four members shall be a quorum for business. In case of death or other removal, the remaining members may elect persons to supply the places of those removed.

(d) This Executive Committee shall, to the extent of the means furnished, and in such locations as they may deem wise, or as the Society may direct, establish and maintain schools and religious meetings for the Chinese, and aid the efforts made by other Baptist organizations for Chinese evangelization in the State, reporting fully all their operations to the Society at their annual meeting.

ARTICLE 6. This Society shall endeavor to secure in each church co-operating with the General Baptist Convention, the organization of a Branch Society, which shall have charge of local work for the Chinese, and which shall contribute to the general fund of the society. Membership in any branch society organized under the Constitution furnished by this Society, shall entitle to membership in this Society.

ARTICLE 7. Branch Societies may appropriate one-half their receipts, where necessary, to their local work for the Chinese, the other half to be forwarded, quarterly, with full report of contributions and work, to the Executive Committee of this Society. Such funds retained for local use shall be reported as appropriations by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 8. The Executive Committee shall represent the Society as delegates in the General Baptist Convention of California.

ARTICLE 9. This Constitution may be changed or modified by a two-thirds vote at any regular annual meeting of the Society.

CONSTITUTION FOR BRANCH SOCIETIES.

ARTICLE 1. This Society shall be called the ——— Branch of the Baptist Chinese Missionary Society of California, and shall have for its object that set forth in the Constitution of said Society.

ARTICLE 2. The payment of one dollar into the treasury of the Branch will entitle any person to annual membership, and of ten dollars at one time, to life membership. This also will entitle to membership in the Baptist Chinese Missionary Society.

ARTICLE 3. The officers shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Recording and Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be members in good standing of some regular Baptist Church. They shall hold office one year, or till their successors shall have been elected; and their duties shall be those usually appertaining to such offices.

ARTICLE 4. The Branch shall meet monthly for prayer, consultation, and the gathering of information valuable in the work; and at each monthly meeting a collection shall be taken for the work of the Branch and of the Society.

ARTICLE 5. The Branch shall organize and prosecute such local work for elevating and Christianizing the Chinese in the vicinity as may be practicable.

ARTICLE 6. The Branch shall forward, quarterly, at least one-half of its receipts, with report of its work to the Executive Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society, said fund to be appropriated by that Executive Committee to mission work among the Chinese, either here or elsewhere, as the committee may judge of the necessity of the several fields.

ARTICLE 7. This Constitution may be modified, with the consent of the Executive Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society, by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting, *provided* there be nothing in the proposed amendment inconsistent with the Constitution of the Baptist Missionary Society.

The Executive Committee of the Chinese Missionary Society reported as follows:

Your committee beg to report that they have not been able to do the efficient work they had hoped, in consequence of the failure of the churches to organize branch societies. We have appropriated the sum of $13 to the current expenses of the Baptist Chinese Mission in San Francisco, and $13 to the Baptist Chinese Mission in Oakland. Your Executive Committee would urge the necessity of energetic advocacy of the interests of this Society by the *Herald of Truth*, by correspondence through the Corresponding Secretary, by the Agent of the Baptist Publication Society, and by every available means. We would also lay it heavily upon the hearts of the churches to see to it that in each church there shall be organized and kept in efficient working a branch society to co-operate in the great work which God has laid upon us in allowing the Chinese to come to this land. We appoint Dr. J. R. Bradway to represent us as a delegate in your body.

REV. G. S. ABBOTT, President.

Rev. J. B. Hartwell, Secretary.

The election of officers for the Baptist Chinese Mission Society resulted as follows:

President—Rev. S. B. Morse.
Vice-President—John F. Pope.
Secretary—Rev. J. B. Hartwell.
Treasurer—H. Garthwaite.

IN MEMORIAM.

The Obituary Committee, by its chairman, Rev. G. S. Abbott D. D., reported as follows, which, on motion, was adopted and ordered printed:

The harvest of death the past year among Baptist pastors and laymen has

not been observably large. If health is to be esteemed a blessing, for which to be grateful, the preservation of almost the entire list of our ministerial and missionary force in vigor of body and mind is an occasion of thanksgiving. All over the State, with its great variety of climate, our pastors are at their posts with a tax on their bodily energies by no means slight. It is a record to be noted that so few have been seriously afflicted with disease of any kind for the past year. One of our number, however—the pastor of the Fifth Baptist Church, Rev. C. W. Hewes—has passed from us. There was a suddenness about his death, and a cause that made us count our continued reason unimpaired by loss of natural, normal action, one of the highest boons of Providential care. When we think to what a strain our mind is often put in the wear and worry of life it is a surprise that so many of us after all are possessed of its wonted vigor and clearness from year to year. For this reason, brethren of the Convention, we are taught by the past year to most fervently praise our Heavenly Father. Rev. C. W. Hewes was a native of Massachusetts, a graduate of Brown University and Newton Theological Seminary; a pastor in Lonsdale, R. I., in Lansingburgh, N. Y., at St. Helena and at the Fifth Baptist Church. He was Principal of the Baptist Female Academy at Indianapolis for years, and a professor for two years at Mills Seminary, California. He had a kind and loving nature. He was a beloved husband and father, pastor and friend. We all miss him to-day in the scenes of which he hoped to be a part. God comfort a mourning family and church!

The death of Mr. Isaac Lankershim, of Los Angeles, was a great grief and loss to our entire Baptist denomination in California. He was a most estimable man, of great purity and quietness of spirit, of most liberal services to education, as also to the church life of Baptists in California. We record our thanksgiving to God that his life was of such a business character as to command the unquestioned honor of the whole industrial community. Such an example is worthy of all imitation. May the Lord multiply the number of such noble, generous, honorable Christian business men all through the business life of Baptists in California.

PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

The Committee on the Publication Society reported as follows, by its Chairman, Rev. W. M. Kincaid, which report was, on motion, adopted:

We, as a Convention, recognize the American Baptist Publication Society as a most invaluable factor in carrying on the denominational work of our State, and most earnestly recommend it to the sympathies and support of our people.

Realizing the vital importance of having a distinctively denominational

literature in circulation in our families and Sunday Schools, we would urge upon the churches and Sunday Schools connected with the General Baptist Convention of California, to make use of the books and other publications of this Society, which are unexcelled by any published elsewhere.

Fully appreciating the action of the Society in appointing our brother, Rev. G. S. Abbott, D. D., to the superintendency of its Sunday School work in the State, and also to the charge of the depository of its publications, we as a Convention pledge to him our sympathy and support in prosecuting this work, and would urge upon the churches to make regular and liberal contributions to its treasury.

W. M. KINCAID, Chairman.

Moved that the Fifth and First Baptist Churches of San Francisco be tendered a vote of thanks for the hospitality shown so cordially to the Convention. Carried unanimously.

After prayer by Dr. Gray, the Convention adjourned to meet with the First Baptist Church of Oakland, Wednesday, May 9, 1883, at 7:30 P. M.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 10, 1882.

The Board of Managers met this day, at 4 o'clock, P. M., prior to the meeting of the Convention.

Dr. Abbott, Chairman of the Executive Committee, read the report of the Committee, which was, on motion, adopted as the report of the Board of Managers, and ordered read before the Convention.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 12.

The Board met at the close of the Convention.

The President, H. I. Parker, D. D., in the Chair.

Dr. Saxton offered prayer.

The Board proceeded to the election of an Executive Committee, on motion. Rev. W. M. Kincaid was chosen President, and Rev. S. B. Moore, Secretary of the Committee. On motion, Rev. G. S. Abbott, D. D., Rev. E. H. Gray, D. D., Capt. G. A. Hull were elected members of the Executive Committee.

On motion, Rev. H. I. Parker, D. D., was chosen as representative of Southern California, on the Executive Committee.

On motion, Rev. J. Q. A. Henry was chosen as representative of Northern California, on the Executive Committee.

Moved that the delegates to the anniversary meetings be instructed to ask aid for the Chinese work in supporting teachers in Oakland and San Francisco. Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

E. R. POPE,
Secretary.